



VOLUME 58 ISSUE 03

March 2008

ARRL Audio News VS PPRAA Net

Jim Harris ABØUK



Over 3½ years ago, after a year-long hiatus, the PPRAA Thursday Net was reborn. At the time, it was a simplex net and later moved to the GGARC repeater. Since its rebirth, the ARRL audio news has

been presented. To date only two people have used their radios and computers to present the news.

A radio capable of getting into the present repeater, a computer and interface to connect the two is all the hardware needed. Windows Media Player, which is a part of every Windows operating system, is the only software needed.

The news is located at arrl.org/arrlletter/audio. Download the latest MP3 file to a convenient computer location. Set all sound levels including Media Player and Master Volume to mid-level. The MP3 file will play as a Wave file so assure the Wave slider in Master Volume is also at mid-level. Assure the mute box is not checked at the bottom of the Master Volume and Wave file sliders. The level on your radio should be that of your normal speaking voice.

Set radio transmit power to 15-20 watts. If your radio may overheat during the news, the repeater can usually be reached well enough with 10 watts. You may want to consider providing additional cooling to your radio. If using a fan, assume it's assisting the radio's fan and not blowing against the airflow.

The GGARC repeater is set to cease transmission after four minutes to prevent a transmitter stuck in transmit from causing the repeater to be on an

excessive length of time. It is important to allow the repeater to rest its time-out timer otherwise it will not transmit.

Audition the news before net time. The news is typically 16-19 minutes in length. There are usually eight breaks in the news. Seven are about three seconds. Write down the time of the breaks including the length of the main break near the middle of the news. At the very beginning of each break in the news, unkey your radio. As soon as you hear the "tail" of the repeater, rekey your radio. This takes about two seconds and will allow the repeater time-out timer to reset. A main break of about eight seconds is usually at about 7 minutes and 45 seconds into the news. This gives time for the operator presenting the news to ID him/herself. During the break and not during your ID unkey the radio to allow the repeater to reset. At one or two breaks, the repeater will begin its own ID. Rekey at the beginning of the repeater ID to continue with the news. When the news is finished give your ID again and turn the net back to the net control station.

Windows Media player cannot send a PTT to the radio so the PTT must be done manually at the radio. Keying the radio can be done by a switch on the radio itself, if available. The switch will be labeled "transmit" or "send." If the audio from your computer to radio interface connection is made to the rear of your radio the microphone audio may or may not be muted when sending the news. If the computer's audio (news) is through the microphone connector the microphone is most likely connected to the interface. Again, the microphone may or may not be muted during the news. Check your radio and interface manual to determine whether it is muted. If the microphone is not muted, assure your shack is quiet while sending the news or you may transmit room noises.

If there is no transmit switch on your radio, you will need to use the PTT switch on your microphone. Hold it down to transmit the news and release it for the

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breaks. Again, assure your shack is quiet while sending the news.

That's all there is to it, folks. While it may initially sound complicated read the above 2-3 times and practice once or twice and you will see how easy it is. People on the net are very forgiving . . . they recognize we are not professional broadcasters and can offer helpful feedback.

73,
Jim, ABØUK

circuits, Propagation, Antennas, Type of emissions, and Review of test questions.

Code practice transmissions are continuing on Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:30 from WB0TAQ. Speeds are from 10 to 20 wpm (with a few mistakes thrown in to keep people alert) on 21.160 MHz.

Les Borst KCØNC

Wayback Machine

Les Borst KCØNC

*From the EL PASO RADIO CLUB newsletter
March 13, 1957*

The regular meeting for March 1957 was called to order by President, Jim Reynolds at 8:10 PM with 17 members and visitors present.

A discussion followed which brought out the importance of doing everything possible to eliminate TVI. A TVI Committee was formed consisting of Jim Reynolds W0JMB, R.T. Saponas W0YJO, Bob Westfall W0CAF, Jim Russell W0AVP, and Joe Vegh K0GBS.

Discussion continued on the subject of faults in commercial Kits. Many experiences related proved that it is best to check every item before starting any project.

Meeting was recessed for coffee and doughnuts and rag chewing. There was no door prize drawing because the Sec. forgot to get one.

*From the PPRAA Ø-Beat
March 1977*

Ray W0WYZ will conduct upgrading classes covering Transmitters, Power supplies, Receiver

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

The PPRAA/VE team holds testing sessions at 9 AM at the Colorado Technical University, 4435 North Chestnut (just west of I-25 and just south of Garden of the Gods Rd).

Exam fee: \$14.00 for Elements 2, 3, and/or 4, payable to ARRL/VEC.

NOTICE: No same-day retakes of same element. Walk-ins allowed; pre-registration not necessary.

BRING: Photo ID, original and copy of valid ham license and/or valid CSCE, and FRN for licensed hams.

Contact:

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA at 719-632-8254 or [email](mailto:zerobeat@ppraa.org) at zerobeat@ppraa.org

Online: ppraa.org or arrrl.org.

Mark your calendars:

Apr. 12, Jun. 14, Aug. 9,

Oct. 11, Dec. 13

In Other Words...

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA

A discussion about Al Gore's *Inconvenient Truth* and the environment with a friend online became a talk about sunspots and the current lack of them for the past couple of months. There was a sunspot on Feb. 6th, but it was part of Cycle 23 and not Cycle 24, the current 11-year cycle that was announced last December.

I can't honestly say I know that much about sunspots, except for what I remember from study for my license three years ago and how it affects HF signals. I know that the Aurora Borealis when it is active is good for using Morse Code and that they are absolutely beautiful, like the one a week or so ago that was visible all the way down to Michigan. Other than that, I'm not that savvy about solar science or sunspot numbers and what they mean – or at least I wasn't until a few days ago.

At the beginning of the 17th century there was a mini-ice age that affected all of Europe with a sheet of ice that left ships stranded and people following the Dutch example by skating on the Thames and other usually open waterways during the winter. It was the result of a Maunder Minimum, which is a lack of sunspot activity – as the name suggests, a minimum. No sunspots means no coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and no energy hitting the Earth's atmosphere and causing interference with HF and the undulating waves of the Aurora Borealis. It also means colder temperatures and possibly another ice age not quite so mini if it continues.

The funny thing about the sun is that it affects not only HF and aerial displays, but the weather patterns and temperatures. For instance, did you know that the sun has burned hotter over the past 50 years than it has in previous centuries and that the sun's hot flashes are more likely the cause of the change in weather patterns and the supposed onset of global warming? Looks like we can't blame carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere for

all our problems with the weather. CO2 levels were higher in ancient times when dinosaurs roamed the earth and there was no greenhouse effect. They were even higher during the 17th century during the mini-ice age and it didn't cause a greenhouse effect, but rather the opposite – freezing temperatures and an increase in the amount of wood and coal burned to keep the people warm. It may well turn out that we need CO2 in the atmosphere to protect us from the sun's temper tantrums and its quiet periods, but scientists aren't quite certain about what role CO2 in the atmosphere plays and what is or is not a safe level to keep us at optimum temperatures. There is also the distinct possibility that it's all a crap shoot and the sun is the culprit after all.

One thing is for sure, man knows more about radio propagation and HF control than about the sun.

According to one group of scientists, it is very likely we are in for a rough ride with the sun in Cycle 24 and that we will see record numbers of sunspots over the next 11 years, with the levels peaking in 2011 and 2012. Doesn't look like a Maunder Minimum is headed our way. We'd better stock up on sunscreen and brush up our Morse Code skills because the auroras are going to be spectacular and well worth working as that shimmering curtain of excited particles drifts lower and lower into the middle of the United States. We might even get the same kind of propagation that excited hams in the 1970s when the Aurora Borealis was visible as far south as New York City, illuminating up the city's sky so brightly even the usual light pollution of Broadway couldn't compete.

If any of you seasoned veterans of the airwaves operated during that time, let us know what it was like, and include pictures if you have them.

On another note, last month the PPRAA VE team went up to The Aerospace Corporation and tested eleven people, one for an upgrade and the other ten for brand new licenses. I am proud to say that ten people walked away with new

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licenses – and their first year's membership in PPRAA. Dennis Major NØABC and I insisted. Dennis brought membership forms and I brought a stack of Ø-Beats for the group.

After we finished with the testing, and I must say that Rick Boller and his staff treated us well with all the cookies and coffee we could handle (I didn't eat any cookies and loaded up on water since I don't drink coffee), Rick showed us around their brand new ham radio station. I'll let Rick and past PPRAA president Christopher Taylor NC6T explain how that came about. It's still in the early stages and doesn't yet have that lived-in ham look, but now they have ten new amateur radio operators to get their hands on all that lovely equipment. I wish I had it here. I have room. I just don't have the engineers to fit it up as nicely as The Aerospace Corporation did theirs.

In the meantime, there's the usual crop of articles about contesting, a few selected Special Event Stations, home brewing and a special article about rescinding ham operations during World War II in the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Pictures of the article as it appeared in QST in 1941 are available at the PPRAA web site at www.ppraa.org. While you're checking out the web, don't forget to renew or sign up for membership if you haven't already before the year slips away any more and you're caught looking at the night sky mesmerized by the Aurora. Or you can take a look at the current picture of the sun from the SOHO web site.

Until next month...

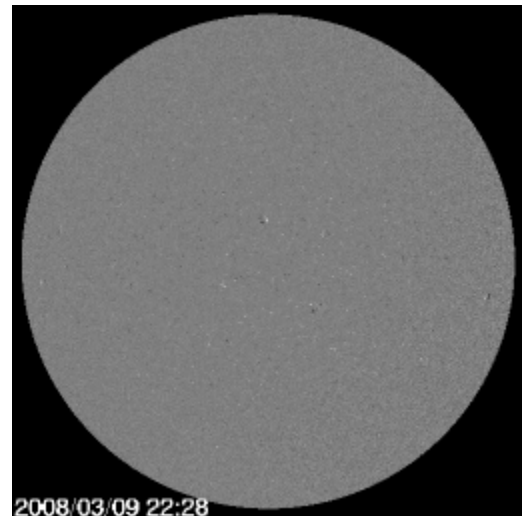
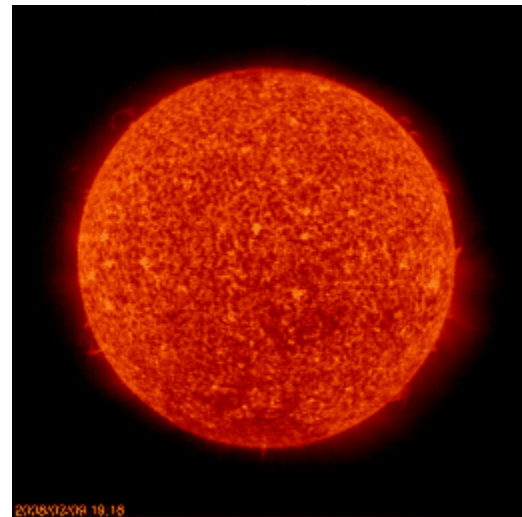
73 as always...

Jackie Cornwell ACØCA
Ø-Beat Editor
zerobeat@ppraa.org

NONPROFIT STATUS

The PPRAA is a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and welcomes all contributions. Your contributions or donations may be tax-deductible.

Current solar activity – 03/09/08



A New Station In Town

Rick Boller NØRDB

When The Aerospace Corporation built its new office building just south of the Colorado Springs airport last year, the company built in a bonus for its employees. Aerospace was able to redesign a room to accommodate a ham station including a conduit all the way to the roof of the two-storey building. “We did a quick survey and found there were only four hams on the staff,” says Rick Boller NØRDB, “and only two of us were really active.”

The major Aerospace offices around the country have ham stations as a part of the company’s emergency preparedness program.. The radio club from the Los Angeles office took note of the new building and worked with Christopher Taylor NC6T to establish a station there. The safety office worked with Christopher to outfit the station to support the emergency preparedness program.

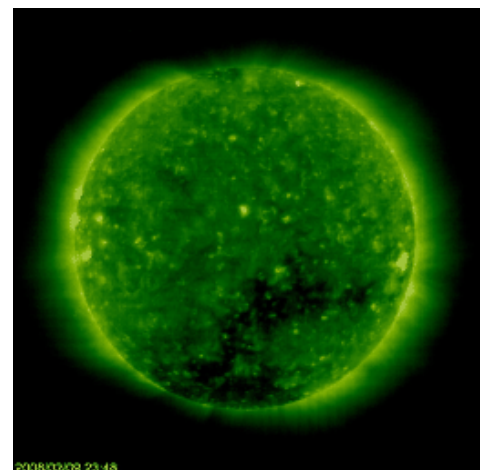
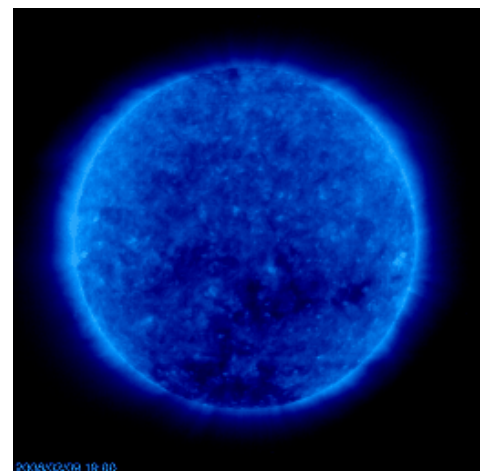
The station will be capable of voice and digital operations on all HF bands, plus voice and packet on 2m, and voice on 1.25m and 70cm. A three-element beam for 10, 15, and 20 meters will be atop a rooftop tower along with VHF/UHF vertical antennas, and a folded dipole will cover the entire HF spectrum. The operators will conduct regular communications tests with the Aerospace offices in Los Angeles and Washington, DC, in addition to participating in local emergency preparedness nets such as the upcoming Skywarn daily nets.

As Christopher started to put the station together, Rick thought it might be a bit lonely in the station with only the four hams. “I sent an email out to the staff to ask if anyone might be interested in a license class. I thought I might get a response from four of five people,” Rick recalls.

The response was overwhelming. No less than twenty people signed up for the class. “We started the class with a very ambitious schedule – test for a Technician license in seven weeks,” Rick states. “We started on January 16, 2008 and seven weeks

later on February 27, 2008 we tested, thanks to a special testing session conducted on-site by the PPRAA Volunteer Examiner (VE) team.” On that date seven people passed Technician tests. One upgraded to General and two passed both the Technician and General tests. The other people in the class who did not get to test on that date are all scheduled to test at future VE testing sessions. “We are forming a company club we are encouraging our new hams to get involved in the community and join PPRAA,” Rick says. “We just got final approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for our antennas [required due to the facility’s proximity to the airport] so we can finish the station. It now looks like the new station will not be lonely at all.”

Rick Boller NØRDB
Christopher Taylor NC6T



Build Something

Dan KB6NU



A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can't really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair.

That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build, but are useful additions to the ham shack.

Here are a couple of sources:

* **Elecraft** elecraft.com. In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about anything on the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation. I also have and use the W1 wattmeter.

* **TenTec** While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits. radio.tentec.com/kits

* **QRP Kits** QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit (\$40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work. qrpkits.com.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience:

* **Small Wonder Labs** smallwonderlabs.com
 * **Wilderness Radio** fix.net/~jparker/wild.html

* **Milestone Technologies** mtechnologies.com
 * **Almost All Digital Electronics** aade.com/index.html
 * **FAR Circuits** farcircuits.net
 * Jackson Harbor
home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm
 * QRPme qrpme.com/
 * Linear Amp UK linamp.co.uk

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts only for a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out:

* American QRP Club amqrp.org
 * Four State QRP Club 4sqr.com/kits/kits.htm
 * NORTEX kk5na.com/nortex.htm

Ready to rock and roll? Here are a couple web sites that you might want to check out before you dive in:

* **Electronic Construction from A to Z** mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm. This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder.

* **Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station** qsl.net/k3pd/book.html. This site not only discusses kit building, but also radio theory.

* **The Art of Kit Building**
ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.htm
 l

I hope I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

What have you built lately? E-mail Dan at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

A Look Back

Ken Sheehan KDØAGV



I don't remember when I became interested in history. The History Channel and History International are among my favorite TV channels. The other day I was looking thru some old articles in QST. Then I came across one in January 1942. It was the first QST after the bombing of Pearl Harbor Hi. President Roosevelt's words were still echoing in the ears of the nation. **"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."**

The FCC placed an order to halt amateur radio. Look how much has changed in the past 67 years. Today our country is at war in a distant land and we are allowed to use our radios. Life is pretty much normal for us, unless you or a member of your family is in the military. Below is an excerpt of the reprinted article. The full article can be read on the web at ppra.org. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Ken Sheehan KDØAGV
Vice President

*See following pages for original article
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Special Event Stations

March / April

Mar 22-Mar 23, 1700Z-0300Z, Fairport Harbor, OH. Sponsored by KB8QID, W8S. Spring Lights QSO party. 14.255. Certificate. Joe Kulnane, 1388 Summit Dr, Mayfield Hts, OH. jmkulnane@sbcglobal.net

Mar 29-Apr 12, 0000Z-2359Z, Paris, France. ARP Radio-Club de Paris, TM2I. 40th anniversary of the "Ville de Paris". 14.275 10.110 7.075 3.775. QSL. Association des Radioamateurs de Paris, ARP Radio-Club de Paris, 66 Avenue de la Republique, Paris 75011, FRANCE. Award available for contact with all 5 special event stations. See URL for complete details. arp75.free.fr/PortailARP/img/DVP_regles_rules.jpg

Apr 1-Apr 30, 0000Z-2359Z, Quebec, QC, Canada. Club Radio Amateur de Quebec, VC2VQ. 400th anniversary of foundation of Quebec City. 14.150 7.070 3.780. QSL. CRAQ, CP 70021, Succ Quebec-Centre, Quebec, QC G2J 0A1, CANADA. www.craq.qc.ca

Apr 5, 0000Z-2359Z, Tulsa, OK. Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, K5THD. Celebrating World Health Organizations World Health Day 2008. 14.273 7.273 14.070 14.230. Certificate. Dave Cox, Tulsa Health Department, 5051 S 129 E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74134. www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd

Apr 5, 1500Z-1900Z, Pine Bluff, AR. Pine Bluff Amateur Radio Club, K5DAK. 819 Steam Locomotive and Museum. 14.250. QSL. E. Glenn Wolf Jr, 210 S Estates Cove, White Hall, AR 71602.

Apr 10, 0000Z-2359Z, San Angelo, TX. AB5BG. Bataan Death March. 28.400 21.300 14.250 7.235. Certificate. Donald R. Goff, 1210 Ardmore, San Angelo, TX 76905. ab5bg@wcc.net

WAR COMES!

We Take Our Posts in the Country's Defense

IN time of emergency, amateur radio steps forward and applies its specialized knowledge to the task of replacing and restoring and supplementing the normal communications system. That is our traditional responsibility — a tradition we have ourselves built and a responsibility we have ourselves sought. War is the gravest emergency of all, and it is now our duty to discharge that traditional responsibility in the war emergency with discipline and patriotic devotion.

Since December 7th, amateur radio has been operating under wartime controls. Eight hours after the first bomb fell in Pearl Harbor, amateur radio as we have known it in peacetime was suspended for the duration. In its place, in the past five days, the volunteer communication system upon which the civilian defense of these shores will be built has begun to take form.

FCC's order suspending normal amateur radio, with its hamming and chewing, should be examined simultaneously with its announcement of a mechanism under which amateur stations whose operation is essential to national defense are being returned to the air:

ORDER NO. 87

At a session of the Federal Communications Commission held at its offices in Washington, D. C., on the 8th day of December, 1941;

Whereas a state of war exists between the United States and the Imperial Japanese Government, and the withdrawal from private use of all amateur frequencies is required for the purpose of the National Defense;

IT IS ORDERED, that except as may hereafter be specifically authorized by the Commission, no person shall engage in any amateur radio operation in the continental United States, its territories and possessions, and that all frequencies heretofore allocated to amateur radio stations under Part 12 of the Rules and Regulations BE, AND THEY ARE HEREBY, WITHDRAWN from use by any person except as may hereafter be authorized by the Commission.

By order of the Commission:

— T. J. Slowie,
Secretary.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D. C.

December 8, 1941

NOTICE TO ALL AMATEUR LICENSEES

All amateur licensees are hereby notified that the Commission has ordered the immediate suspension of all amateur radio operation in the continental United States, its territories and possessions. Under this action all amateur radio operation in the continental United States, its territories and possessions is prohibited until further notice. In any instances where amateur radio operation is deemed to be required in connection with the national defense, appropriate authorization to engage in such operation will be issued but only upon application by a duly authorized federal, state, or local official made to the Defense Communications Board.

Pay particular attention to the language in the latter portion of the notice: *The way is open for every amateur whose services are desired by proper officials to get back on the air and help.* We should perhaps say "desired and needed," because hams aren't going to be able to get back on the air simply because they want to or because they are "willing to help" or even because they can get some small-fry or "unofficial" official to certify them. Chiseling is definitely discouraged and there must be a bona-fide defense need to be served. But once there is, the route is open. Our situation, then, is that rather than being off the air we are being resited in what amounts to a species of relicensing under DCB whenever it is apparent that a competent official needs our help. Already, as we write, numerous amateur groups and nets have been activated and returned to the air for a purely defense purpose. It's a new kind of amateur radio but it is still the familiar picture of amateurs and their gear and their traditional skill and loyalty.

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION

HERE is some practical information on the mechanism that is permitting defense activities to retain the services of amateur radio — although we should emphasize that in a

rapidly-changing situation the information we have to-day may not be entirely reliable by the time this is in print. (Suggestion: Check official broadcasts from W1AW.)

When an authorized public official, such as a governor or a mayor, wires or writes DCB or FCC a description of his proposed communication plan and a statement of why he has to have it, together with the names, calls and addresses of the amateurs he desires to serve in it, he may reasonably expect to receive a prompt response to the effect that the named amateurs are authorized to work in his system until further notice, as an exception to Order 87, for communications directly connected with national defense activities primarily relating to the defense work in his charge. A copy of that authorization will be sent to each individual amateur concerned and will be his operating credentials.

Note carefully that no authorizations are issued direct to an amateur or simply because an amateur wishes to offer his services. Application for the activation of amateurs may be made only by a duly-authorized federal, state or local official, and must spring from a need. Moreover, that official cannot be given a blanket authorization to permit operation by any amateurs he wishes. He must first explain his plan and show that the requested operation is necessary to perform a special national-defense function, and then he must name the individual amateurs concerned — not only their calls but their names and addresses as well. One reason for this is that Washington and the monitoring services must have a record of who has been authorized; another is that authorization from DCB must be sent to each individual amateur.

It will be noted that no stipulations of frequencies are required. The thought at the moment is that it is proper and desirable to permit the use of any band needed by an authorized official. Therefore when operation is authorized it is subject to all the usual FCC regulations and the special orders that have recently governed us, but all the usual amateur bands are made available. Most of the nets that have been authorized these last few days have been voice systems on 2½ and 5 meters but some are 80-meter c.w. operation and some are 160-meter and 75-meter 'phone nets, with or without connecting u.h.f. networks at each city.

While it is not permitted the individual amateur to get back on the air solely under his own

auspices, there is of course no objection to amateurs, groups, nets and clubs explaining the present mechanism to competent officials who have need of amateur assistance; or to their doing some of the manual work of typing the requests for the signature and certification of the official. Certification, by the way, is not confined to any stated language: when a proper official asks authorization and asserts that he needs a certain amateur arrangement for a specified defense purpose, that is sufficient certification. There is no standard form, and requests may be telegraphic or by mail. The state defense systems are better known and better organized than many of the local ones and in some states OCD organization is not very far advanced. If there is room for any doubt about the recognition that DCB would give some particular local coordinator of civilian defense, it would be better if the request came from the mayor of the town, or from the chief of police if that is a proper function of the latter in the local plans.

A word here about DCB. Under an Executive Order recently signed by the President, all the latter's wartime powers over communications are lodged with DCB. It is at the very top of the wartime communications picture. But DCB is a board, not a commission with extensive personnel, and much of its work will be done for it by FCC personnel. Net result is that the applications we are talking about may be filed with either the Defense Communications Board or the Federal Communications Commission at Washington.

Headquarters urges that all League officials who have contact with authorities who are using amateurs, or who ought to be using them, bring to their attention the mechanism whereby amateur stations may be reactivated and assist them in making requests in proper form. We urge all amateurs to develop an association with a defense activity that will permit them to be returned to the air for that purpose, and then to do their best in the discharge of such duties. Radio amateurs are needed — in some places desperately. We believe we can count upon the amateurs of the country to see their duty, to devote themselves to patriotic service, and willingly to get back on the air for that purpose in large numbers.

SOME CAUTIONS

THE nation is at war. Complete Naval censorship of outgoing international correspondence was instituted December 7th. Ama-

teurs in defense work are on their honor to censor themselves similarly. *The permits now given amateurs rigidly confine them to defense operation.* No ragchewing will be tolerated and the fellows who engage in it will fare much worse than simply to lose their permits. The NDO monitoring service daily receives lists of the amateurs whose return to the air has been authorized and it is a safe bet that FBI will walk in pretty promptly on any gatecrasher who is not specifically certified for defense operations. As we value our return to the air, let there be no monkey business about this. If we are undisciplined or just playing around, or are incautious in our remarks, the War Department is practically certain to wash us up promptly and permanently and we would thereby forfeit our one chance to be on the air. They can't take chances with us if we don't show ourselves to be absolutely trustworthy. We'll all have a serious purpose but we mustn't even be careless, not even for a moment.

It is also emphatically worthy of notice that the suddenness of the emergency has given us tasks that were not originally contemplated for us, so that we are in the presence of our one big chance to make good. Let no careless amateur spoil this!

There are no specified details on what a net or group may or may not do. The agency for whom the group is authorized is in charge of its operation. If that agency says there may be no closing of switches until there is traffic of that agency to be handled, then there is no closing of switches. If that agency orders daily or hourly testing of the net, that testing is proper. If mayors or other proper local officials handling civilian protection work say that u.h.f. rigs must be installed and tested, that makes it proper for authorized amateurs to do so. But testing means disciplined testing and there must be *no idle gossiping and chewing the fat.*

Let it also be clearly understood that the amateur regulations are in full effect on those who are put back on the air. That means, among other things, that only licensed amateur operators may control the equipment; that the required log must be kept; and that great care must be taken to prevent unauthorized persons from having access to the apparatus.

CIVILIAN PROTECTION

WHEN war came, OCD's planning for civilian protection in air raids was still in-

complete. Naturally this work is now being accelerated tremendously, particularly on the seaboard. Within a few weeks it may be expected that every vulnerable community will have its organization well in hand. We learn that each local coordinator of civilian defense is being called upon to appoint a competent communications administrator with the duty of creating and managing the community communications plan. It is under this official that we amateurs will participate in the ARP work. Thinking over the communications facilities that exist in cities with which we are familiar, it seems to us that the only systems that satisfy the need for the primary network are the wire telephones and the municipal signaling systems. Other facilities inevitably will be pretty random and catch-as-catch-can. It is imperative that the community possess a secondary system to go into operation whenever the primary one is interrupted — or, for that matter, whenever it begins to near its capacity, so that there may be retained in it some elasticity for the traffic of higher priorities. The backbone of this secondary system necessarily is amateur radio with its u.h.f. Thousands of us are needed with our home-built low-powered gear, to aid the communities in which we have lived and worked. Our job will be to bridge the gaps that occur in the primary system, to deal with critical overloads, and to provide portable or mobile service for incident officers, wardens and so on.

OCD is according definite recognition to amateurs. Instructions are being sent the local volunteer enrollment centers that will soon make it possible for all radio amateurs reporting locally for registration to be "earmarked" exclusively for communications work. In the meanwhile, we repeat that all amateurs interested in the protection work in their community should register themselves with the local ARRL Emergency Coordinator, which is our only way to have a group spokesman to represent us until the time the communities open amateur enrollment and appoint the local communication aide to the CD chief. Our Emergency Coordinators have now been instructed by the League to report at once to the local coordinators of civilian defense to arrange *something* to serve during the critical period until organization can be perfected, or to lay the facilities of our gang before the mayor or chief of police in cities where OCD work is not yet sufficiently advanced. See pages 7 and 8 of this issue for more information.

In the current situation no city in America can feel itself entirely safe and some are definitely anything but immune. We can see our job: if trouble comes to our home town, we'll be needed, for we are the only ones who can help when the wires go dead. We must build movable self-powered u.h.f. sets after the general prescriptions of *QST* — build them by the thousands! We must enroll for operating work with our gear — temporarily with our own ECs, later through the volunteer centers. We must help our communities in the actual job of organizing and lend them aid in securing the required special authorization for amateur communication assistance.

DISASTER RELIEF

ALL the foregoing arrangements relate to defense communications in the *military* emergency. At the moment of writing, no provision exists for the usual amateur aid in the event of interruption of communications by *natural* disasters such as floods, hurricanes or earthquakes. The activation of a defense net for this purpose would seem to be unauthorized unless the agency for whom the net was organized could establish that the disaster was also imperiling national defense.

Officials of the League are urgently endeavoring to obtain government approval of a formal plan whereunder amateurs may maintain their time-honored duties in this field, in the knowledge that Nature is no respecter of military emergencies. Should a disaster occur before such a plan is put into effect, the League will urge FCC to broadcast special authority to *all* hams in the affected area to get on the air and help. If this occurs, we can do the usual job, but it will be no excuse for a clambake and again we must confine ourselves strictly to the job in hand. Meanwhile all amateurs must distinctly understand that unless they do receive some such authority they may not come on to the air for this purpose, even though communities are suffering.

WATCH FOR WIAW

THE regulatory situation is likely to change from day to day, hour to hour. New rules may come out at any time. By special federal authority, our headquarters station WIAW is remaining indefinitely on the air, conveying government announcements to amateurs and watching over our bands. Whenever there are new needs or new rules affecting the amateur in defense work or disaster work,

it may be expected that WIAW will bring you the news faster than any other means. Keep an ear out for it.

TEARS AND CHEERS

IF WE had the time, in our rush to get these special pages to press, we'd pause to shed a tear over the fact that for the first time in over twenty-two years the fun and camaraderie and rough-house of the amateur bands are stilled. Instead, we have a call to arms. If we could afford the luxury of a more leisurely mood, there are some deep-down-in-the-heart remarks we might make about that situation, and some pointed ones we'd like to get off on the cause of it all. But *QST* is basically the medium of our particular art and we are already a group of people schooled in industry, patience and conscientious application to our responsibilities. In the position of America to-day, Headquarters sees no need for flag-waving when it addresses the membership of the American Radio Relay League. We are a mature group and our emotions toward our country need no artificial stimulus. The field of the League is amateur radio and we have here confined ourselves to practical considerations in the application of that skill to the nation's needs. The dear glad days are necessarily gone for a while and there is no time or place for tears. Instead of the old kind of amateur radio, our actions are now directed solely to the assistance of the defense of the nation, at the urgent request of competent officials. Our stations, our operating ability, our devotion are being summoned for innumerable communications tasks of the sort that only we are prepared to discharge. We are now engaged — all of us — in the traditional duty of amateurs: supplying all-essential communication in an emergency. Let it be our high resolve that we shall never be found wanting!

December 12, 1941

K. B. W.

Strays

For the first time since conscription began, it is now possible to enlist in the Signal Corps. The Army needs operators — many of them. Any licensed amateur or commercial operator who presents his license to an Army recruiting officer will be permitted to enlist and will be assured of radio work.



Contesting

Dave Sloan NØOEP

The NAQP RTTY contest was great. Propagation was fair for 80, 40, and 20. And some contacts were made on 15 and 10 meters. As I said last month this is a good contest for newbies. Since the maximum power is 100 watts and points are given for only contacting North American stations, you didn't have to compete with all of the high power stations and the DX would have been calling you. The remaining three NAQP contests will be:

- RTTY: 1800Z July 19 to 0600Z July 20, 2008 (Third full weekend in July)
- CW: 1800Z August 2 to 0600Z August 3, 2008 (First full weekend in August)
- SSB: 1800Z August 16 to 0600Z August 17, 2008 (Third full weekend in August)

Mark your calendars now so that you don't schedule your vacation or something else for these weekends. Remember to read and understand the rules of any contest that you plan on entering. Doing so will allow you to maximize your score. As an example, in a contest where dupes on different bands are allowed and each state counts as a multiplier. If you contact 25 stations in 10 different states on 20 meters and these are the only contacts you make your score would be one point for each contact = 25 points times the 10 multipliers your total would be 250 points. However, if you make 15 contacts with the same 10 different states and then make 10 contacts with the same 10 states on 40 meters. Your score would be $15 \times 10 = 25 \times 20 = 500$ points. So, by working two bands you increased your score from 250 points to 500 points for the same number of contacts!

If you don't want to wait until July for the RTTY NAQP, then the NA Sprint RTTY contest on the 9th of March might be just the thing. A sprint is very similar to the QSO Parties except they only last for 4 hours. The rules can be found at ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php These sprints are great for new contactors to learn about contesting without all of the pain of the long hours and high power that some contest bring. Let me know how you like the sprints?

The 10-10 Inc. Mobile Phone QSO Party is held on the third Saturday in March from 0001 to 2359 UTC. This is where all stations work mobiles and mobiles work everyone they can. More information can be found at ten-ten.org/ then click on the QSO Party Rules on the left side of the page.

Here are the upcoming contests and QSO Parties. Last month I said, "This is the time of year that contesting really gets active." Well the number of contests is increasing.

Cont'd on next page...

CLARA and Family HF Contest	1700Z, Mar 11 to 1700Z, Mar 12 and 1700Z, Mar 15 to 1700Z, Mar 16
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 12
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 14
10-10 Int. Mobile Contest	0001Z-2359Z, Mar 15
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
Feld Hell Sprint	1500Z-1700Z, Mar 15
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1600Z-1900Z, Mar 15 (144) and 1900Z-2100Z, Mar 15 (432)
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 17
UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 16
9K 15-Meter Contest	1200Z-1600Z, Mar 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 17
Bucharest Contest	1500Z-1559Z, Mar 17 and 1600Z-1659Z, Mar 17
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 20
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 20
ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party	0001Z, Mar 21 to 2359Z, Mar 30
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 21
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 22 to 0200Z, Mar 24
UBA Spring Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Mar 23
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 26
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 28
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30

April, 2008

YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 6
SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 5 to 1500Z, Apr 6
EA RTTY Contest	1600Z, Apr 5 to 1600Z, Apr 6
QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 1800Z, Apr 6
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5 to 0500Z, Apr 6 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 6
Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 5 to 2100Z, Apr 6
RSGB RoPoCo 1	0700Z-0900Z, Apr 6
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 7

PPRAA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2008**Attendees:**

Mike WV7T, Doug N7LEM,
John KCØJFH, Ken
KD0AGV, Bill KDØJU,
Dennis NØABC, Dave
NØEOP, Mike KØMLA,
Susan KCØSYA.

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7 PM at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Minutes: Susan/Bill moved/seconded to approve minutes as printed. Passed.

Reports

- ✚ **Treasurer's Report** – Dennis reported that we have at total of \$10,283.51 in our three accounts as of February 18, 2008.
- ✚ **Membership Committee** – no report. Ken said he would like to make available on the website certain items (e.g., the CSU Electrical Safety presentation video) for the members' use only, but he needs to have a correct and up-to-date membership listing for this. Les has that information available. We also discussed various ways to encourage more participation in club activities. We need feedback on what members want to do and want the club to do.
- ✚ **Megafest** – All four prizes have been purchased. Raffle tickets have not been received yet. Dennis recommended that we buy 5000 tickets this year.
- ✚ **Field Day** – Mike WV7T is trying to get the ICS program set up with the Tri-Lakes/Monument Fire Protection District personnel.
- ✚ **COQP** — Doug will set up a meeting to get this off the ground with a committee. Date of meeting is TBD.

✚ **Special Event Stations** – Mike WV7T is working to get an appropriate event. Armed Forces Day is one probable date.

New Business

Meeting Locations - We don't have a location yet for the May or July meetings due to ELIC rooms being unavailable. Doug has reserved the Panera Bread conference room on Powers for July through December and will also check on getting it for April, May and June. Other location options were also discussed. Ken/Mike moved/seconded that we change the meeting location to Panera Bread on Powers starting as early as the April meeting, if it is available. Passed.

Around The Table

Ken -- Wondered about our club's interactions with other clubs. He suggested that we encourage volunteers by providing some small gifts or recognition awards. He has received additional materials for the club library. If you need an article from QST, he has many old issues and can provide copies for our members. Also the board needs to review and update our Club Manual, as it has not been done recently. Suggested that we each take a look at our appropriate section in the Club Manual to see if it needs changes (they do!). The manual is downloadable from our website at ppraa.org/downloads/club-man.pdf

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.
Next PPRAA Board meeting: 7PM, Monday,
March 17, 2008, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation.

Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØJFH
PPRAA Secretary
19 February 2008

PPRAA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2008

President Doug Nielsen N7LEM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the East Library Information Center followed by introductions around the room. A quorum was present.

Silent Keys: Ken Keyte W0TGL and Andy Juhasz N0QMF (Skip's father)

Treasurer's Report: Dennis N0ABC reported that we had a \$10,283.51 total balance in our three accounts as of 13 Feb 2008. He received the raffle license for our Megafest.

Minutes: January meeting / Les KC0NC/Mike K0MLA moved/seconded to approve minutes as printed in the Zero Beat. Passed.

Committee Reports

- ✓ **Megafest** – Rob N7LV. The date is Saturday, June 7 at Lewis Palmer HS. Prizes will be as follows: Yaesu FT-450AT, VX-6R, VX-3R, and FT-8800R (the latter donated by CMRG). Rob/Doc moved/seconded to approve funding for the prizes up to an amount of \$1300. Passed. Rob/Les moved/seconded that we allocate up to \$1500 for the LPHS facility and table rental. Passed.
- ✓ **Field Day** – Mike WV7T is working with the Monument/Tri-Lakes FPD to get this set up as an ICS-type event. Mike still needs a safety person and a talk-in coordinator and a backup Field Day coordinator.
- ✓ **Summer Picnic** – Aug 16, 2008, Dirty Woman Park in Monument.
- ✓ **Tech Education** – Mike WV7T would like to hear from anyone wanting to take the tech class license exam. He has very effective training materials available.
- ✓ **Membership** – Les KC0NC says we have 60 paid-up members as of today. Reminder: If you have not paid your dues yet, they are (over)due.

New Business

- ❖ **Ham Family Dinner** – Mike WV7T is putting on the Ham Family Dinner at Fargo's Pizza, Sunday,

Feb 17 at 4 PM. We have a room reserved for this event.

- ❖ **HamCon 2009** – The organizers have requested our club to provide seed money for the 2009 event, the Rocky Mountain Division Convention. Tom W0TOM/Rick K0SU moved/seconded to provide \$300 for the seed money for HamCon 2009. Mike/Rob moved/seconded to amend the amount to \$500. The amendment passed. The amended motion also passed. We can get a return on this amount, depending on whether the event nets more. Jim AB0UK is our representative to this event. Doc asked that Jim convey to the organizers that he (Doc) was displeased with the event location again being in Estes Park, rather than a more central location in the state.
- ❖ **CO QSO Party** – A chairman is still needed for this event.
- ❖ **Thursday Night Net** – Dan had 13 check-ins on the net. He still needs to get more volunteers to act as NCS operators for the 7 PM Thursday Night Net on 146.91 MHz. Please contact Dan at AC0CC@arrl.net if interested.
- ❖ **Other** – Mike WV7T is having a yard sale soon. Info will be posted on the Reflector. He will also be setting up some Special Event stations.
- ❖ **Door Prizes** – A new distribution method was tried: prizes are each assigned a number. Then the winner draws a prize number from an envelope.

Program: Colorado Springs Utilities Electrical Safety demonstration.

Next Club Meeting: 7 PM, 2nd Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at the ELIC.

Next Board Meeting: 7 PM, the Monday following club meeting, February 18, at the Stetson Hills Police Substation, 4110 Tutt Blvd.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Submitted by:
John Wishart KCØFH
PPRAA Secretary
19 February 2008

PPRAA PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings PPRAA,

In case you don't remember, all PPRAA memberships run from January 1 to December 31. With the holiday season and New Year I know that PPRAA membership dues are probably one of the last things on your mind. However, it has now been three months since the beginning of the year and many of you have still not renewed your membership. This is very strange since meeting attendance has been up since the start of the year.

While on the topic of membership, this is YOUR club; let's hear what you want us to do for you. The board is beginning a review of the club bylaws and other documentation. This is your chance to help us set the rules and change any regulations that no longer work. Are monthly meetings too much? Are there specific subjects you'd like to see in the programs? What if once a quarter the general meeting was held on a weekend in conjunction with some sort of operating event such as a contest or a special event station? The board wants this to be a great club but we need the members to let us know what you want the club to be. Even if you want the club to keep doing what we've been doing, let us know.

The major events for the club are coming together and we hope you will participate and possibly help out in some manner.

The club-sponsored MegaFest will be June 7th at Lewis Palmer High School in Monument. Major planning has been done, but there is still a need for folks to attend other hamfests and sell raffle tickets. We also need folks to help set up on June 6th and to tear down on June 7th and take admissions during the fest. Please contact Rob, N7LV, on how you can do your part.

Field Day is June 28th and 29th. Mike, WV7T, is still looking for someone to captain the GOTA station and to help set up and tear down. We always need folks to operate during the weekend. Contact Mike on how you can participate.

The PPRAA summer picnic is scheduled for August 16th. The club will provide the meat and drinks. Salads and desserts will be potluck. You must be a "member in good standing" to attend (i.e., dues paid).

Expect to see more benefits to membership coming in the next few months. If you want to renew or join, please do so soonest before you miss out.

Hope everyone survived winter and is looking forward to spring and warmer weather as much as I am. Oh, and don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 9th. Daylight Savings starts early this year!

73,

Douglas Nielsen, N7LEM

Jess Miley KØTAA

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